

Listing Of Claims

1-17 (Cancelled)

18. (New) In a system for coupling a hand held electronic reference product having an encrypted database file and a file system to a PC having a reader so that the PC can process the database file, the security validation subsystem comprising:

a serial identification number for one of said hand held product and said file system,

a first voucher in said database file, said first voucher based on said serial identification number, and

a second voucher in said product at a location outside of said database file, said second voucher based on said serial identification number.

a comparator program within the PC reader to read and compare said first and second vouchers to provide a validation signal if said vouchers meet a predetermined correspondence comparison criterion,

said validation signal permitting decryption by the PC of said database file.

19. (New) The security validation of claim 18 wherein: said vouchers are based on a serial number in said file system.

20. (New) The security validation of claim 18 wherein: said vouchers are based on a serial number of said hand held product.

21. (New) The security validation of claim 18 wherein: said database file has a header and said first voucher is contained in said header.

22. (New) The security validation of claim 19 wherein: said database file has a header and said first voucher is contained in said header.

23. (New) The security validation of claim 20 wherein: said database file has a header and said first voucher is contained in said header.

24. (New) The security validation of claim 18 wherein: said predetermined criterion is identity between said vouchers.

25. (New) The security validation method of providing access by a PC to an encrypted database file stored in a hand held electronic reference product, said hand held electronic reference product having a file system, comprising the steps of:

providing a serial number identification for at least one of said hand held product and said file system,

providing a first voucher in said database file, said first voucher based on said serial number identification,

providing a second voucher in said product at a location outside of said database file, said second voucher based on said serial number identification,

comparing said first and second vouchers to determine correspondence in accordance with a predetermined criterion, and

enabling decryption by said PC of said database file if said step of comparing meets said predetermined criterion.

26. (New) The security validation method of claim 25 wherein: said vouchers are based on a serial number in said file system.

27. (New) The security validation method of claim 25 wherein: said vouchers are based on a serial number of said hand held product.

28. (New) The security method of claim 25 wherein: said database file has a header and said first voucher is contained in said header.

29. (New) The security validation method of claim 26 wherein: said database file has a header and said first voucher is contained in said header.

30. (New) The security validation method of claim 27 wherein: said database file has a header and said first voucher is contained in said header.

31. (New) The security validation method of claim 25 wherein: said predetermined criterion is identity between said vouchers.